

## Social Security Program

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when earnings stop or are reduced because the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 65 (reduced benefits at 62) or to disabled workers at any age. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, a disability, or child care requirement.

Nationally, in December 2001 benefits were paid to 45,874,040 persons. This number included 28,841,850 retired workers, 5,024,520 widows and widowers, 5,265,190 disabled workers, 2,895,150 wives and husbands, and 3,847,330 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.2 percent of the population 65 or older.

Monthly benefits averaged \$874 for retired workers; \$820 for all widows and widowers (\$841 for nondisabled widows and widowers); \$815 for disabled workers; and \$430 for wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers. Average payments for children of deceased workers were \$570; for children of retired workers, \$414; and for children of disabled workers, \$239.

Monthly payments for December 2001 totaled \$36.5 billion. Of this amount, \$26.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$5.2 billion to survivors; and \$4.7 billion to disabled workers and their dependents. Average benefits and total monthly payments include the 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2001.

In **Colorado**, benefits were paid to 542,210 persons. This number included 341,280 retired workers; 57,070 widows and widowers; 62,540 disabled workers; 38,380 wives and husbands; and 42,940 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 12.2 percent of the total population of the state and 91.7 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Colorado received an average of \$852 per month; widows and widowers, \$830; disabled workers, \$808; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$433. Average payments for children were: \$450 for children of retired workers; \$588 for children of deceased workers; and \$245 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly payments in December 2001 totaled \$424 million. Of this amount, \$309 million was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$60 million to survivors; and \$55 million to disabled workers and their dependents.

## Supplemental Security Income Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2002, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$545, and for a couple, \$817.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2001, 6,688,489 persons received federally administered SSI payments

including 1,264,463 aged, and 5,424,026 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,159 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,811,494 were 18 to 64, and 881,836 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,172,400. Federally administered payments totaled over \$2.8 billion in December 2001: \$2.5 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$302 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$394. The aged averaged \$314; disabled and blind, \$413.

In addition, 689,163 persons in 30 states received state-administered payments in December 2001, which totaled \$75 million.

In **Colorado**, 53,466 persons—8,772 aged, and 44,694 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2001. A total of 13,748 recipients were aged 65 or older, 33,237 between 18 and 64, and 6,481 under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$20.7 million. The average federal payment was \$356 overall, \$271 for aged recipients, and \$372 for those disabled and blind. In addition, 32,389 persons in Colorado received state-administered supplementation in December 2001, which totaled \$6.7 million.

In December 2001, the total number of persons in Colorado receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 576,173.

## **Social Security Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 151.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$3.7 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$464 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In **Colorado** in 1999, an estimated 2.36 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$59.79 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$7.41 billion in Social Security taxes.

## **Medicare Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$4.6 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$134 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In **Colorado** in 1999, an estimated 2.49 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$79.66 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$2.31 billion in Medicare taxes.



Angela Y. Harper was responsible for the programming, processing and compiling of data. For additional information pertaining to data in the factsheet, please contact Rona Blumenthal (410-965-0163) for Social Security data; Arthur Kahn for SSI program data (410-965-0186); and for information about earnings and employment, Greg Diez (410-965-0153). For technical information about the data processing, contact Angela Y. Harper (410-965-0106). For additional copies, contact the Division of Information Resources (202-358-6274) or check SSA's web site: <http://www.ssa.gov/policy>.

## Social Security Program

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Nationally, in December 2001 benefits were paid to 45,874,040 persons. This number included 28,841,850 retired workers, 5,024,520 widows and widowers, 5,265,190 disabled workers, 2,895,150 wives and husbands, and 3,847,330 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.2 percent of the population 65 or older.

Monthly benefits averaged \$874 for retired workers; \$820 for all widows and widowers (\$841 for nondisabled widows and widowers); \$815 for disabled workers; and \$430 for wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers. Average payments for children of deceased workers were \$570; for children of retired workers, \$414; and for children of disabled workers, \$239.

Monthly payments for December 2001 totaled \$36.5 billion. Of this amount, \$26.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$5.2 billion to survivors; and \$4.7 billion to disabled workers and their dependents. Average benefits and total monthly payments include the 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2001.

In **Montana**, benefits were paid to 159,180 persons. This number included 100,010 retired workers; 17,690 widows and widowers; 17,490 disabled workers; 11,460 wives and husbands; and 12,530 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.6 percent of the total population of the state and 94.0 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Montana received an average of \$845 per month; widows and widowers, \$812; disabled workers, \$800; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$424. Average payments for children were: \$386 for children of retired workers; \$556 for children of deceased workers; and \$229 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly payments in December 2001 totaled \$123 million. Of this amount, \$90 million was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$18 million to survivors; and \$15 million to disabled workers and their dependents.

## Supplemental Security Income Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2002, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$545, and for a couple, \$817.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2001, 6,688,489 persons received federally administered SSI payments

including 1,264,463 aged, and 5,424,026 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,159 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,811,494 were 18 to 64, and 881,836 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,172,400. Federally administered payments totaled over \$2.8 billion in December 2001: \$2.5 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$302 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$394. The aged averaged \$314; disabled and blind, \$413.

In addition, 689,163 persons in 30 states received state-administered payments in December 2001, which totaled \$75 million.

In **Montana**, 14,206 persons—1,304 aged, and 12,902 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2001. A total of 2,486 recipients were aged 65 or older, 9,865 between 18 and 64, and 1,855 under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$5.6 million, of which \$5.5 million was federal SSI and \$73,622, state supplementation. The average federally administered payment was \$350 overall, \$179 for aged recipients, and \$367 for those disabled and blind.

In December 2001, the total number of persons in Montana receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 167,850.

## Social Security Earnings and Employment

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 151.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$3.7 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$464 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In **Montana** in 1999, an estimated 498,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$9.37 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.16 billion in Social Security taxes.

## Medicare Earnings and Employment

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$4.6 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$134 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In **Montana** in 1999, an estimated 503,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$10.24 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$297 million in Medicare taxes.



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## Social Security Program

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Nationally, in December 2001 benefits were paid to 45,874,040 persons. This number included 28,841,850 retired workers, 5,024,520 widows and widowers, 5,265,190 disabled workers, 2,895,150 wives and husbands, and 3,847,330 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.2 percent of the population 65 or older.

Monthly benefits averaged \$874 for retired workers; \$820 for all widows and widowers (\$841 for nondisabled widows and widowers); \$815 for disabled workers; and \$430 for wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers. Average payments for children of deceased workers were \$570; for children of retired workers, \$414; and for children of disabled workers, \$239.

Monthly payments for December 2001 totaled \$36.5 billion. Of this amount, \$26.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$5.2 billion to survivors; and \$4.7 billion to disabled workers and their dependents. Average benefits and total monthly payments include the 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2001.

In North Dakota, benefits were paid to 114,380 persons. This number included 70,470 retired workers; 16,640 widows and widowers; 9,560 disabled workers; 10,590 wives and husbands; and 7,120 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 18.0 percent of the total population of the state and 95.0 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in North Dakota received an average of \$817 per month; widows and widowers, \$798; disabled workers, \$765; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$408. Average payments for children were: \$398 for children of retired workers; \$514 for children of deceased workers; and \$233 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly payments in December 2001 totaled \$85 million. Of this amount, \$62 million was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$15 million to survivors; and \$8 million to disabled workers and their dependents.

## Supplemental Security Income Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2002, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$545, and for a couple, \$817.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2001, 6,688,489 persons received federally administered SSI payments

including 1,264,463 aged, and 5,424,026 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,159 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,811,494 were 18 to 64, and 881,836 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,172,400. Federally administered payments totaled over \$2.8 billion in December 2001: \$2.5 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$302 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$394. The aged averaged \$314; disabled and blind, \$413.

In addition, 689,163 persons in 30 states received state-administered payments in December 2001, which totaled \$75 million.

In **North Dakota**, 8,129 persons—1,277 aged, and 6,852 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2001. A total of 2,199 recipients were aged 65 or older, 5,011 between 18 and 64, and 919 under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$2.7 million. The average federal payment was \$310 overall, \$187 for aged recipients, and \$333 for those disabled and blind. In addition, 355 persons in North Dakota received state-administered supplementation in December 2001, which totaled \$160,000.

In December 2001, the total number of persons in North Dakota receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 118,731.

## **Social Security Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 151.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$3.7 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$464 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In **North Dakota** in 1999, an estimated 374,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$7.49 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$929 million in Social Security taxes.

## **Medicare Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$4.6 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$134 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In **North Dakota** in 1999, an estimated 377,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$8.07 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$234 million in Medicare taxes.



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## Social Security Program

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Nationally, in December 2001 benefits were paid to 45,874,040 persons. This number included 28,841,850 retired workers, 5,024,520 widows and widowers, 5,265,190 disabled workers, 2,895,150 wives and husbands, and 3,847,330 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.2 percent of the population 65 or older.

Monthly benefits averaged \$874 for retired workers; \$820 for all widows and widowers (\$841 for nondisabled widows and widowers); \$815 for disabled workers; and \$430 for wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers. Average payments for children of deceased workers were \$570; for children of retired workers, \$414; and for children of disabled workers, \$239.

Monthly payments for December 2001 totaled \$36.5 billion. Of this amount, \$26.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$5.2 billion to survivors; and \$4.7 billion to disabled workers and their dependents. Average benefits and total monthly payments include the 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2001.

In **South Dakota**, benefits were paid to 136,560 persons. This number included 86,210 retired workers; 16,450 widows and widowers; 12,260 disabled workers; 10,550 wives and husbands; and 11,090 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 18.1 percent of the total population of the state and 96.7 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in South Dakota received an average of \$802 per month; widows and widowers, \$784; disabled workers, \$742; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$409. Average payments for children were: \$372 for children of retired workers; \$530 for children of deceased workers; and \$221 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly payments in December 2001 totaled \$100 million. Of this amount, \$74 million was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$16 million to survivors; and \$10 million to disabled workers and their dependents.

## Supplemental Security Income Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2002, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$545, and for a couple, \$817.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2001, 6,688,489 persons received federally administered SSI payments

including 1,264,463 aged, and 5,424,026 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,159 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,811,494 were 18 to 64, and 881,836 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,172,400. Federally administered payments totaled over \$2.8 billion in December 2001: \$2.5 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$302 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$394. The aged averaged \$314; disabled and blind, \$413.

In addition, 689,163 persons in 30 states received state-administered payments in December 2001, which totaled \$75 million.

In **South Dakota**, 12,698 persons—1,921 aged, and 10,777 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2001. A total of 3,297 recipients were aged 65 or older, 7,437 between 18 and 64, and 1,964 under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$4.5 million. The average federal payment was \$327 overall, \$176 for aged recipients, and \$354 for those disabled and blind. In addition, 3,647 persons in South Dakota received state-administered supplementation in December 2001, which totaled \$176,000.

In December 2001, the total number of persons in South Dakota receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 143,934.

## **Social Security Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 151.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$3.7 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$464 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In **South Dakota** in 1999, an estimated 453,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$8.78 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$1.09 billion in Social Security taxes.

## **Medicare Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$4.6 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$134 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In **South Dakota** in 1999, an estimated 458,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$9.49 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$275 million in Medicare taxes.



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Monthly benefits averaged \$874 for retired workers; \$820 for all widows and widowers (\$841 for nondisabled widows and widowers); \$815 for disabled workers; and \$430 for wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers. Average payments for children of deceased workers were \$570; for children of retired workers, \$414; and for children of disabled workers, \$239.

Monthly payments for December 2001 totaled \$36.5 billion. Of this amount, \$26.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$5.2 billion to survivors; and \$4.7 billion to disabled workers and their dependents. Average benefits and total monthly payments include the 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2001.

In **Utah**, benefits were paid to 246,330 persons. This number included 159,570 retired workers; 21,840 widows and widowers; 22,810 disabled workers; 18,500 wives and husbands; and 23,610 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 10.8 percent of the total population of the state and 91.2 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Utah received an average of \$878 per month; widows and widowers, \$867; disabled workers, \$804; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$458. Average payments for children were: \$461 for children of retired workers; \$574 for children of deceased workers; and \$234 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly payments in December 2001 totaled \$196 million. Of this amount, \$150 million was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$26 million to survivors; and \$20 million to disabled workers and their dependents.

## Supplemental Security Income Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2002, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$545, and for a couple, \$817.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2001, 6,688,489 persons received federally administered SSI payments

including 1,264,463 aged, and 5,424,026 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,159 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,811,494 were 18 to 64, and 881,836 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,172,400. Federally administered payments totaled over \$2.8 billion in December 2001: \$2.5 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$302 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$394. The aged averaged \$314; disabled and blind, \$413.

In addition, 689,163 persons in 30 states received state-administered payments in December 2001, which totaled \$75 million.

In **Utah**, 20,545 persons—2,096 aged, and 18,449 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2001. A total of 3,654 recipients were aged 65 or older, 13,390 between 18 and 64, and 3,501 under 18.

Federally administered SSI payments totaled \$8.4 million, of which all but \$5,172 was federal SSI. The average federally administered payment was \$367 overall, \$302 for aged recipients, and \$375 for those disabled and blind.

In December 2001, the total number of persons in Utah receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 260,652.

## **Social Security Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 151.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$3.7 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$464 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In **Utah** in 1999, an estimated 1.18 million residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$25.72 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$3.19 billion in Social Security taxes.

## **Medicare Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$4.6 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$134 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In **Utah** in 1999, an estimated 1.19 million residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$29.86 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$866 million in Medicare taxes.



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## Social Security Program

The Social Security program—Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when earnings stop or are reduced because the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of the worker's retirement insurance (old-age) or disability benefit is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. The benefit amount for an auxiliary or survivor beneficiary is based on a percentage of the worker's benefit. Monthly benefits are payable to retired workers at age 65 (reduced benefits at 62) or to disabled workers at any age. Auxiliary and survivor beneficiaries must generally meet an age, a disability, or child care requirement.

Nationally, in December 2001 benefits were paid to 45,874,040 persons. This number included 28,841,850 retired workers, 5,024,520 widows and widowers, 5,265,190 disabled workers, 2,895,150 wives and husbands, and 3,847,330 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.7 percent of the total population and 91.2 percent of the population 65 or older.

Monthly benefits averaged \$874 for retired workers; \$820 for all widows and widowers (\$841 for nondisabled widows and widowers); \$815 for disabled workers; and \$430 for wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers. Average payments for children of deceased workers were \$570; for children of retired workers, \$414; and for children of disabled workers, \$239.

Monthly payments for December 2001 totaled \$36.5 billion. Of this amount, \$26.6 billion was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$5.2 billion to survivors; and \$4.7 billion to disabled workers and their dependents. Average benefits and total monthly payments include the 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase effective December 2001.

In Wyoming, benefits were paid to 78,420 persons. This number included 51,440 retired workers; 7,200 widows and widowers; 8,520 disabled workers; 5,150 wives and husbands; and 6,110 children. Social Security beneficiaries represented 15.6 percent of the total population of the state and 95.3 percent of the state's population aged 65 or older.

Retired workers in Wyoming received an average of \$871 per month; widows and widowers, \$851; disabled workers, \$822; and wives and husbands of retired and disabled workers, \$442. Average payments for children were: \$462 for children of retired workers; \$604 for children of deceased workers; and \$227 for children of disabled workers.

Monthly payments in December 2001 totaled \$63 million. Of this amount, \$47 million was paid to retired workers and their dependents; \$8 million to survivors; and \$8 million to disabled workers and their dependents.

## Supplemental Security Income Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The program is based on nationally uniform eligibility standards and payment levels. The federal SSI payment is determined by the recipient's countable income, living arrangement, and marital status. As of January 2002, the maximum monthly federal SSI payment for an individual living in his or her own household and with no other countable income is \$545, and for a couple, \$817.

A state may supplement the payment levels of all or selected categories of recipients. These supplemental payments may be administered by the state or the Social Security Administration.

In December 2001, 6,688,489 persons received federally administered SSI payments

including 1,264,463 aged, and 5,424,026 who were disabled or blind. A total of 1,995,159 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,811,494 were 18 to 64, and 881,836 were under age 18.

The total number of persons receiving either a Social Security payment, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 50,172,400. Federally administered payments totaled over \$2.8 billion in December 2001: \$2.5 billion in federal SSI payments, and \$302 million in state supplements. The average federally administered payment was \$394. The aged averaged \$314; disabled and blind, \$413.

In addition, 689,163 persons in 30 states received state-administered payments in December 2001, which totaled \$75 million.

In **Wyoming**, 5,790 persons—525 aged, and 5,265 disabled and blind—received federally administered SSI payments in December 2001. A total of 918 recipients were aged 65 or older, 3,992 between 18 and 64, and 880 under 18.

Federal SSI payments totaled \$2.2 million. The average federal payment was \$343 overall, \$156 for aged recipients, and \$362 for those disabled and blind. In addition, 2,869 persons in Wyoming received state-administered supplementation in December 2001, which totaled \$57,000.

In December 2001, the total number of persons in Wyoming receiving either a Social Security benefit, a federally administered SSI payment, or both was 81,975.

## **Social Security Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 151.4 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or OASDI) program. They earned \$3.7 trillion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$464 billion in Social Security taxes to the OASI and DI Trust Funds.

In **Wyoming** in 1999, an estimated 286,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Social Security program. They had \$6.06 billion in Social Security taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$752 million in Social Security taxes.

## **Medicare Earnings and Employment**

Nationally, in 1999, the latest year for which state data are available, an estimated 154.7 million persons worked in employment that was covered under the Medicare (Hospital Insurance or HI) program. They earned \$4.6 trillion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$134 billion in Medicare taxes to the HI Trust Fund.

In **Wyoming** in 1999, an estimated 288,000 residents worked in employment covered under the Medicare program. They had \$7.14 billion in Medicare taxable earnings. Employees, employers, and the self-employed paid a total of \$207 million in Medicare taxes.



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